

Alternative ed, coaches, sports transportation included in add-backs

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established, funds would be added back for the following:

- Alternative Education;
- Athletic transportation;
- Assistant coaches for the remaining sports;
- Custodian and Fiscal As-

sistant to return staffing to last year's level;

- Food service transfer;
- Lincoln School lunch transportation;
- Secretary days to provide coverage on in-service days.

The list also included funds

for items not anticipated in June, including athletic equipment to replace old equipment, and teachers' supplies.

Veteran teacher Ilene Grady asked the board to consider adding back funds for fifth grade band. This is most stu-

dents' only exposure to band before making a choice between band and choir in the sixth grade, she explained, and without a fifth grade band experience, students couldn't make an informed choice. She also reminded the board that the primary purpose of schools is academic education.

The board unanimously approved the potential add backs without discussion.

Student Board Member

Last spring the board expressed a desire to include a student representative on the board. Eric Schmidlin, a junior, began to serve in that capacity after the board approved a policy outlining the duties and responsibilities of the position. The student representative will be able to discuss all issues as a full board member but will not be allowed to vote or attend executive session. Schmidlin will also give the board a monthly update on high school activities. According to Schmidlin the new 90-minute block schedule can drag at times, but students like having the extra day to accomplish homework assignments. Funderburg told the board that this is also an adjustment for staff that will continue to be addressed during weekly in-service training. In response to a question from Darrell Hamblet, Schmidlin said that efforts to make schools a more positive experience for youth have resulted in better classroom behavior and fewer referrals.

Administrators' Reports

Middle School (Grades 4-8) Principal Nathan Underwood

reported that the beginning of school was a little rough with computer and scheduling problems, and introduced Mathew Threat, an eighth grade student who told the board, "Lunch tastes good this year!" This served as a perfect introduction for Gretchen Lindauer who has taken over food service. Lindauer said there is one freshly made item each day and a salad bar, as well as processed foods. The number of students eating in the cafeteria has increased and now includes many from the high school.

Underwood thanked the board for their support and direction, telling them that the weekly in-service was a "golden opportunity" for professional development and that the middle school staff is a nice blend of veteran and rookie teachers. Teachers are using the advisory period to review the handbook and the Code of Conduct, and are handling most discipline issues within the classroom. As a result, he said, there have been few referrals to the office.

High School Principal Curt Scholl reported that there were also initial scheduling problems at the high school due to a late change in staff and computer problems. He said that it has been a challenge to balance class sizes, but that adjustments have been made and classes range in size from 32 to 15. He told the board that further adjustments would be made at the semester break. Scholl said he "likes the studentbody" and that the kids are respectful, polite and making

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